



Department of Medical Assistance Services
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www.dmas.virginia.gov

MEDICAID MEMO

TO: All Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Mental Health/Mental Retardation Agencies, Substance Abuse Clinics (FAMIS), Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Psychiatric Residential Inpatient Facilities, Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, and Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners

FROM: Patrick W. Finnerty, Director
Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

MEMO Special
DATE 6/20/2008

SUBJECT: Rate Corrections for Outpatient Substance Abuse Services – Effective July 1, 2008

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of changes in the payment rates for some outpatient substance abuse (SA) services. Coverage of substance abuse services in the Medicaid program was expanded to include certain outpatient SA services effective July 1, 2007, as described in the memo dated June 12, 2007. Rates were benchmarked to rates for similar mental health services. This was an interim measure for the first year of the new service coverage. Recent research on the benchmarked mental health services shows that there are significant differences between the SA services and the services to which they were benchmarked, and that to correct the preliminary rate calculations, the SA rates should be set higher than those previously calculated. The rates effective July 1, 2008 are shown in the following table.

SA Service	Billing Code	Level	New Rates Effective 7/1/2008
SA Day Treatment	H0047HM	Paraprofessional	\$2.70 per 15 minutes
	H0047HN	QSAP with a Bachelors Degree	\$3.60 per 15 minutes
	H0047HO	QSAP with a Masters Degree	\$4.80 per 15 minutes
SA Intensive Outpatient	H2016HM	Paraprofessional	\$2.70 per 15 minutes
	H2016HN	QSAP with a Bachelors Degree	\$3.60 per 15 minutes
	H2016HO	QSAP with a Masters Degree	\$4.80 per 15 minutes

Opioid Treatment	H0020HM	Paraprofessional	\$2.70 per 15 minutes
	H0020HN	QSAP with a Bachelors Degree	\$3.60 per 15 minutes
	H0020HO	QSAP with a Masters Degree	\$4.80 per 15 minutes

QSAP = Qualified Substance Abuse Professional

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option (ARS) to access information regarding Medicaid or FAMIS eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 1-800-884-9730 or 1-800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

“HELPLINE”

The “HELPLINE” is available to answer questions Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays. The “HELPLINE” numbers are:

1-804-786-6273	Richmond area and out-of-state long distance
1-800-552-8627	All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance)

Please remember that the “HELPLINE” is for provider use only. Please have your Medicaid Provider Identification Number available when you call.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov. Refer to the “DMAS Content Menu” column on the left-hand side of the DMAS web page for the “Provider Services” link, which takes you to the “Manuals, Memos and Communications” link. This link opens up a page that contains all of the various communications to providers, including Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order it by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 1-804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.

PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

DMAS is pleased to inform providers about the creation of a new Provider E-Newsletter. The intent of this electronic newsletter is to inform, communicate, and share important program information with providers. Covered topics will include changes in claims processing, common problems with

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billing, new programs or changes in existing programs, and other information that may directly affect providers. If you would like to receive the electronic newsletter, please sign up at www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-enewsletter.asp.

Please note that the Provider E-Newsletter is not intended to take the place of Medicaid Memos, Medicaid Provider Manuals, or any other official correspondence from DMAS.